GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4565
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2016
Medical Facilities to Personnel of Armed Forces
Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram;Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the provisions made for providing medical facilities to personnel of armed forces including Ex-Servicemen and their dependents;

(b) whether treatment facilities through different Indian Systems of medicine are available to them, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the Government to provide treatment facilities through different Indian Systems of medicine and reimbursement of medical expenses arising thereto;

(d) whether medical facility under Ayurvedic and Unani system of medicine has been withdrawn from Base Hospital in Delhi; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures taken by the Government to resume the said facility?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(a) All kinds of medical facilities such as primary medical healthcare, specialist medical care and super specialist medical care are provided to armed forces personnel including ex-servicemen and their dependents.
(b) to (e): At present, treatment facilities through Indian Systems of medicine are not available in the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) hospitals for the reasons that the structure of AFMS revolves on combat medical and surgical requirements and the basic ethos of keeping the service personnel fighting fit at all times.

Earlier, two Ayurveda clinics − one at Base Hospital, Delhi and another at Command Hospital (Southern Command), Pune were started in the year 2004 on trial basis for a period of one year. On completion of the trial period, the issue of continuation of these clinics was reviewed and it was decided to discontinue the same for the reasons mentioned above.
However, it has again been decided to open two AYUSH lifestyle centres − one at Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi and another at Air Force Hospital, Hindon on trial basis.
At present, there are no provisions for reimbursement of medical expenses for treatment under Indian Systems of medicine.

****